



COMM AVE BRIDGE



REPLACEMENT PROJECT

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Legislative Briefing
April 24, 2018

- Introduction to Project Team
- Project Description
- Schedule
- Impacts
- Communication/Public Outreach



Project Team

Contractor

- Walsh Construction

Design Team

- HDR – Lead
- City Point Partners, LLC
- Fort Hill Infrastructure Services, LLC
- Harris Miller Miller & Hanson, Inc.
- Kleinfelder, Inc.
- LTK Engineering Services
- McMahon Associates Inc.
- Nitsch Engineering, Inc.
- Regina Villa Associates, Inc.
- RM Engineering, Inc.

MassDOT Highway Division

- District 6 Construction
- Traffic/Safety

MBTA

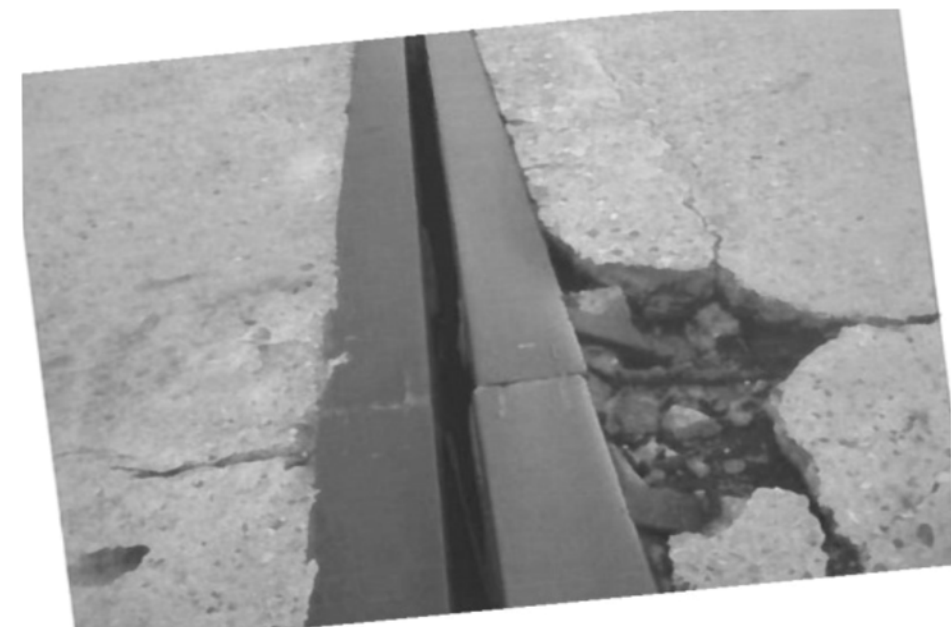
- Subway, Bus, and Railroad Operations
- Power Department
- Track Department
- Safety Department
- Police
- Capital Delivery
- Keolis

Project Location



Background

- The bridge carries traffic on Commonwealth Avenue and the MBTA's Green Line over I-90 as well as the MBTA Commuter Rail and Amtrak train tracks in Boston.
- The bridge was originally constructed in 1965 and is structurally deficient.
- The eastbound side of the bridge was replaced during the summer of 2017.
- The westbound side of the bridge will be replaced this summer.



About the Project

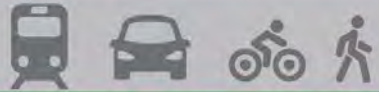
- \$110 million project that is scheduled to be fully completed in the spring of 2019.
- The project uses **Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC)** to replace the superstructure over two intensive construction windows:
 - **Summer 2017** (eastbound portion of the bridge) - *complete*
 - **Summer 2018** (westbound portion of the bridge)



The Summer 2018 construction window will occur from **July 26 – August 11** (15 ½ days).

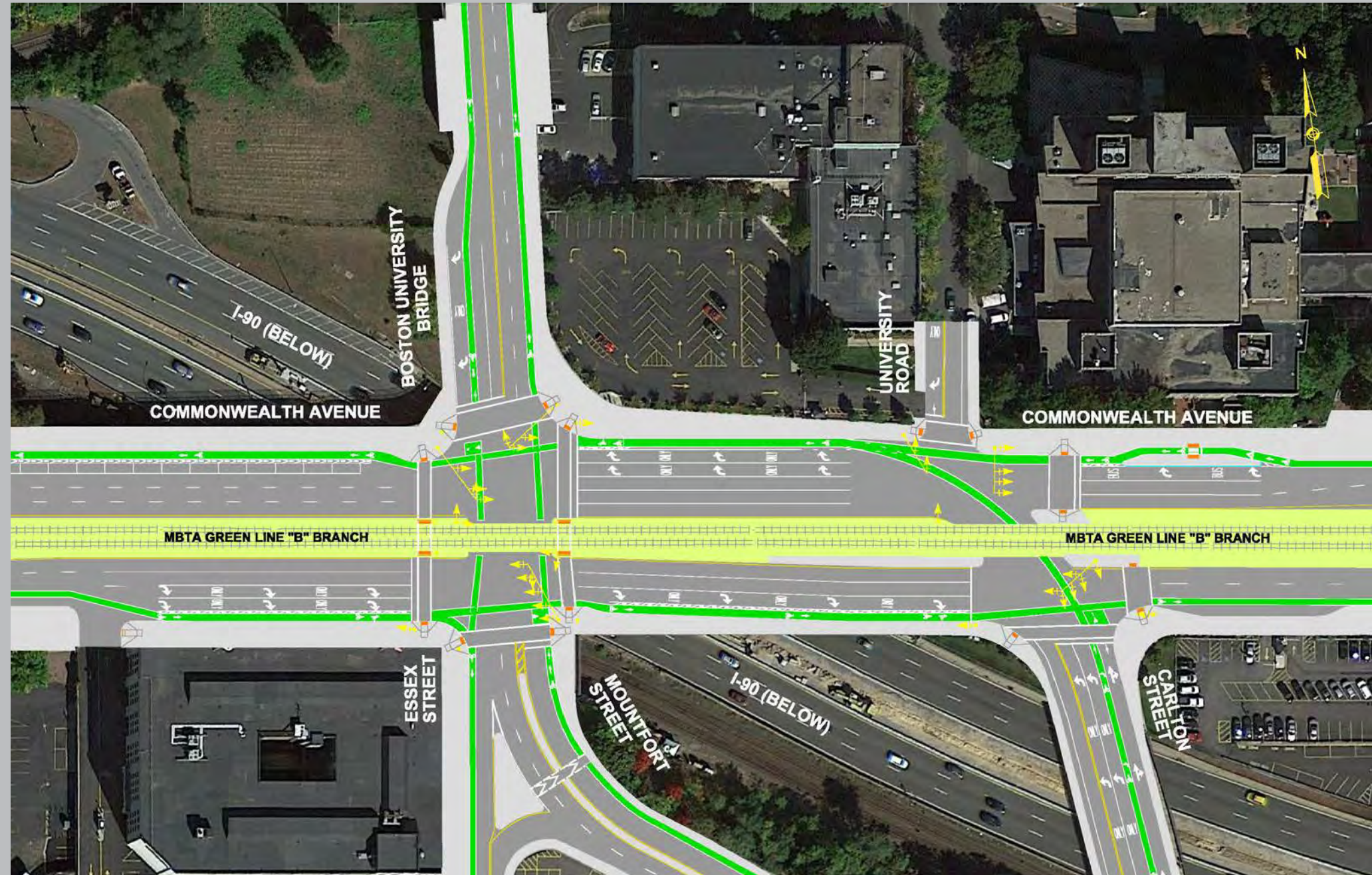
Benefits of Time Period

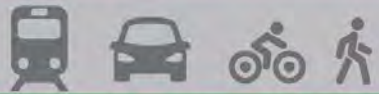
- Traffic volumes on I-90 are lowest during late July/early August.
- Green Line ridership is at its lowest in late July/early August.
- This construction window impacts the same number of Red Sox games as last year – and these impacts were well managed as a result of coordination with the MBTA and public outreach.
- I-90 at full capacity during July 4 celebrations and will be re-opened to full capacity prior to Labor Day.



Project Benefits

- New bridge that is expected to last approximately 75 years
- New bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, including bicycle lanes and dedicated traffic signals
- Increased safety and improved travel throughout this intersection and the local area
- New MBTA Green Line tracks





Summer 2017 Highlights

- Successfully replaced the eastbound side of the bridge in approximately 3 weeks.
- Managed impacts to local community and the region.
- Traveling public made smart decisions.



Summer 2018 Construction



- In 15 ½ days, crews will replace the westbound side of the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge.
- Over 200 workers are expected to work around the clock.
- Crews will utilize three 600-ton cranes.
- The westbound side of the bridge will be constructed with 45 steel beams and 214 pre-fabricated concrete deck panels.

2018 Project Schedule

July 26 – August 11

Facility	Impacts	Notes
Commonwealth Avenue (Packard's Corner to Kenmore)	Closed to through motor vehicles for 15½ days	<i>Two-way access will be maintained for local businesses and residents, MBTA buses, emergency services, pedestrians, and bicyclists. There will be no access for private vehicles between St. Paul and St. Mary's Streets.</i>
Boston University (BU) Bridge	Closed to motor vehicles and buses for 15½ days	<i>Two-way access will be maintained for pedestrians and bicyclists.</i>
MBTA Bus Routes (CT2 and 47)	Detoured from normal routes for 15½ days	<i>Detour maps are available on the project website.</i>
MBTA Green "B" Line (Blandford St. to Babcock St.)	Closed from Blandford St. to Babcock St. for 15 days	<i>Shuttle bus service will run between Blandford St. and Babcock St.</i>
I-90 (Mass Turnpike)	Lane reductions and ramp closures for 9½ days	<i>Two lanes in each direction during peak periods. The I-90 Eastbound on-ramp from Cambridge Street/Soldiers Field Road will be closed during this entire period. The I-90 Westbound Exit 20 off-ramp to Brighton/Cambridge will also be closed intermittently.</i>
MBTA Commuter Rail (Framingham/Worcester Line)	Service impacts for two weekends: July 28-29 and August 4-5	<i>Shuttle bus service will replace trains on weekends. Details regarding bus diversions are being finalized.</i>
Amtrak (Lake Shore Limited Line)	Service impacts for two weekends: July 28-29 and August 4-5	<i>Shuttle bus service from Albany, NY to Boston.</i>

Facility	2018 Impacts	2017 Impacts
Commonwealth Avenue	Closed to vehicles for 15 ½ days (July 26 th 7 p.m. – Aug 11 th 5 a.m.)	<i>Closed to vehicles for 20 days</i>
BU Bridge	Closed to vehicles for 15 ½ days (July 26 th 7 p.m. – Aug 11 th 5 a.m.)	<i>Closed to vehicles for 20 days</i>
I-90	Traffic Shifted for 9 ½ days (July 27 th 9 p.m. – Aug 6 th 5 a.m.)	<i>Traffic shifted for 9 ½ days</i>
MBTA Green Line B-Branch	Bus diversions for 15 days (July 27 th 5 a.m. – Aug 11 th 5 a.m.)	<i>Bus diversions for 20 days</i>
MBTA Commuter Rail (Worcester Line)	Bus diversions on 2 weekends (Jul 28– Jul 29 and Aug 4 – Aug 5)	<i>Bus diversions on 2 weekends</i>
MBTA Bus Service	Expanded detours to the CT2 and 47 routes for 15 ½ days (July 26 th 7 p.m. – Aug 11 th 5 a.m.)	<i>Bus detours for 20 days</i>
Amtrak Train Service	Bus diversions on 2 weekends (Jul 28 th – Jul 29 th and Aug 4 th – Aug 5 th)	<i>Bus diversions on 2 weekends</i>

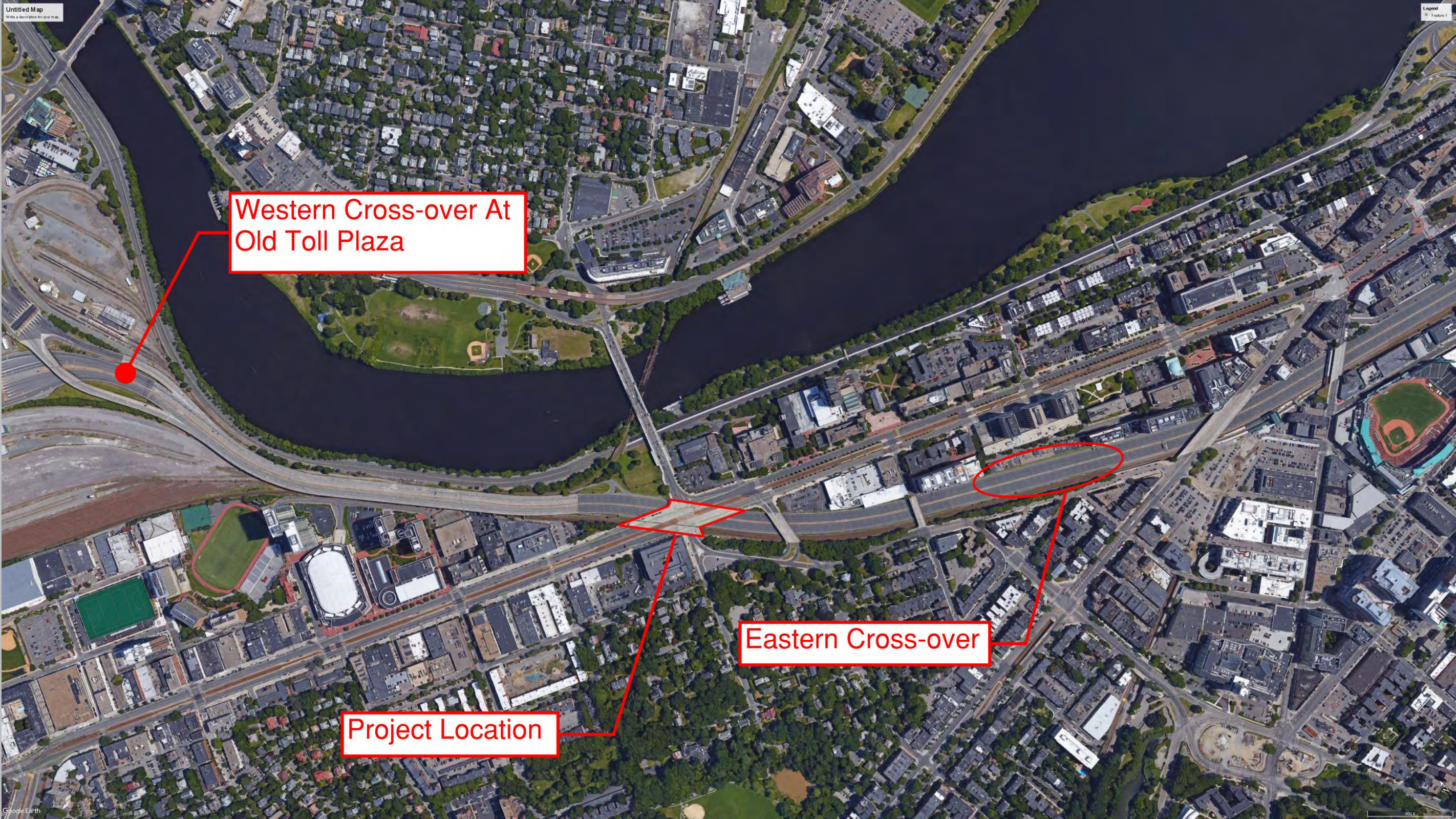
What's different in 2018?

- 15 ½ days of intensive work compared to 20 days in 2017
- I-90 will not be reduced from 4 to 3 lanes throughout the month of July
- The BU Bridge will be closed to all vehicular traffic including MBTA buses meaning expanded detours
- There will be minimal MBTA track work

2018 Project Schedule

	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10	Aug 11
Comm Ave CLOSED to through motor vehicles	7:00 PM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5:00 AM
BU Bridge CLOSED to motor vehicles	7:00 PM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5:00 AM
MBTA CT2 & 47 Detours	7:00 PM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5:00 AM
MBTA Green B Line Bus Diversion		5:00 AM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5:00 AM
I-90 Lane Restrictions		9:00 PM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5:00 AM					
Commuter Rail Bus Diversion			X	X						X	X						

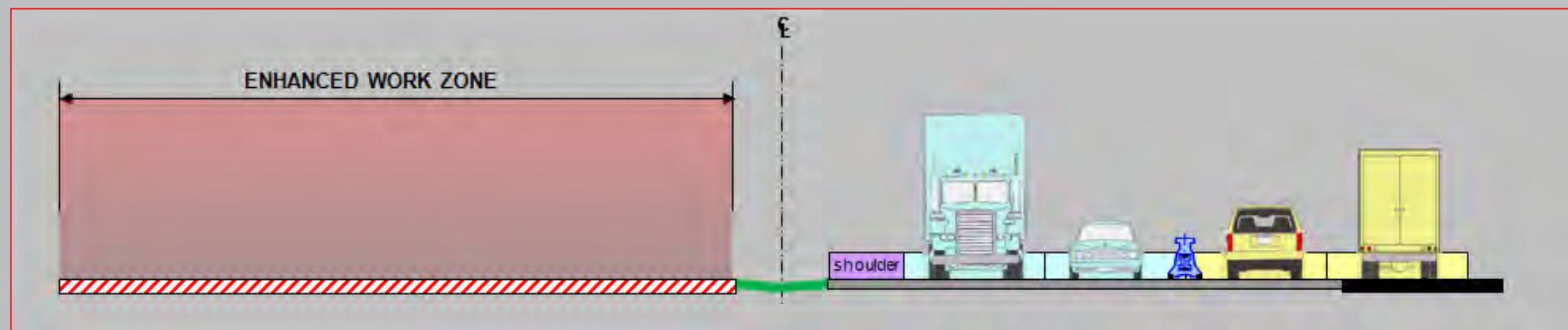
I-90 Impacts



Limits of the crossover are Allston/Brighton Toll Plaza and Beacon Street Overpass (~6600 feet)

Use of Movable Barrier

- Similar to the HOV Zipper Lane on I-93



I-90 Dry Run (Weekend of June 1)

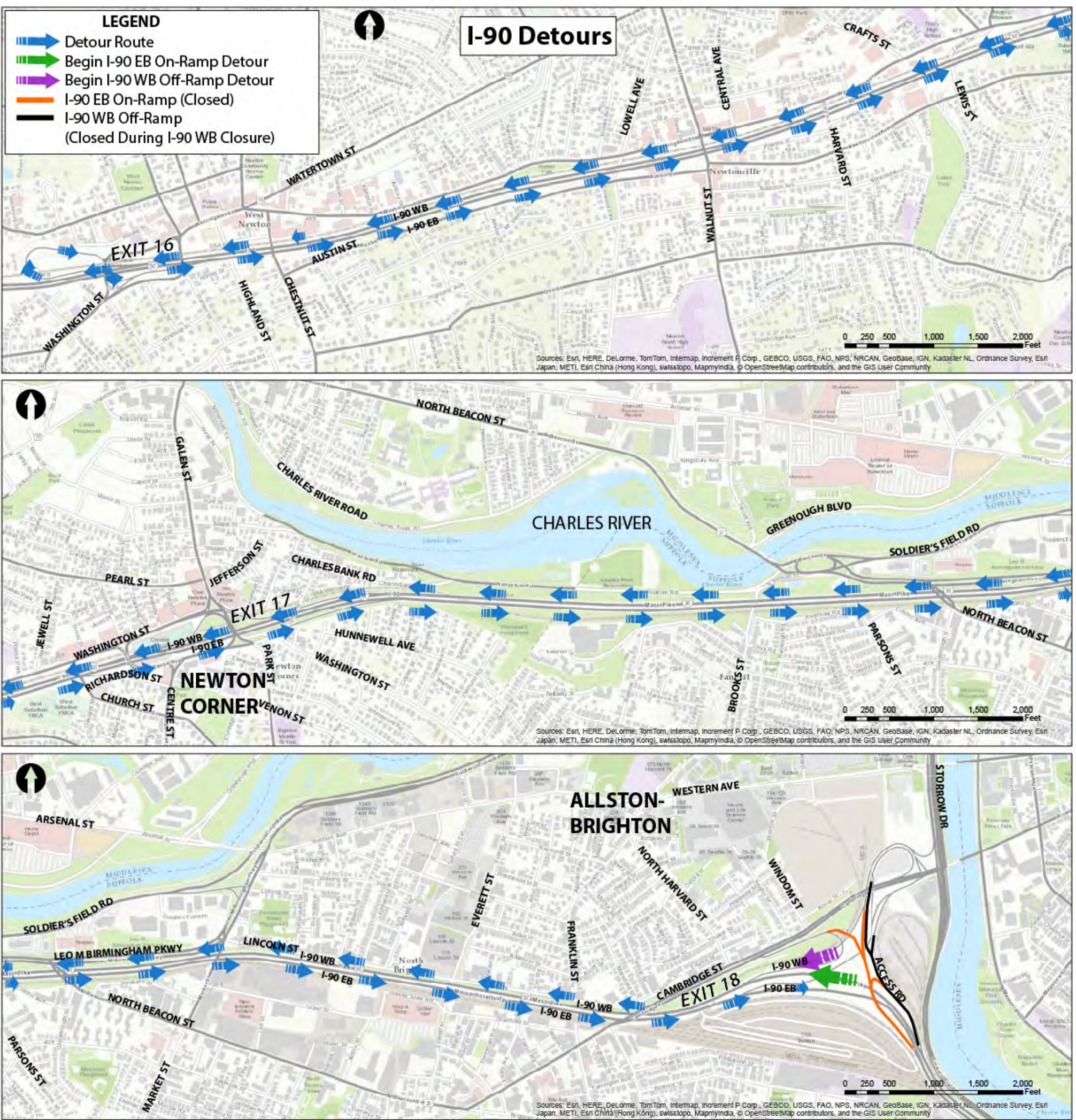
- I-90 will be restricted from 4 lanes to 2 lanes in each direction beginning 9:00 PM on Friday, June 1
- The I-90 Eastbound on-ramp from Cambridge Street/Soldiers Field Road will be closed during this entire period
- The I-90 Westbound Exit 20 off-ramp to Brighton/Cambridge will be closed intermittently
- I-90 will reopen to 4 lanes by 5:00 AM on Sunday, June 3



I-90 Impacts During Shutdown



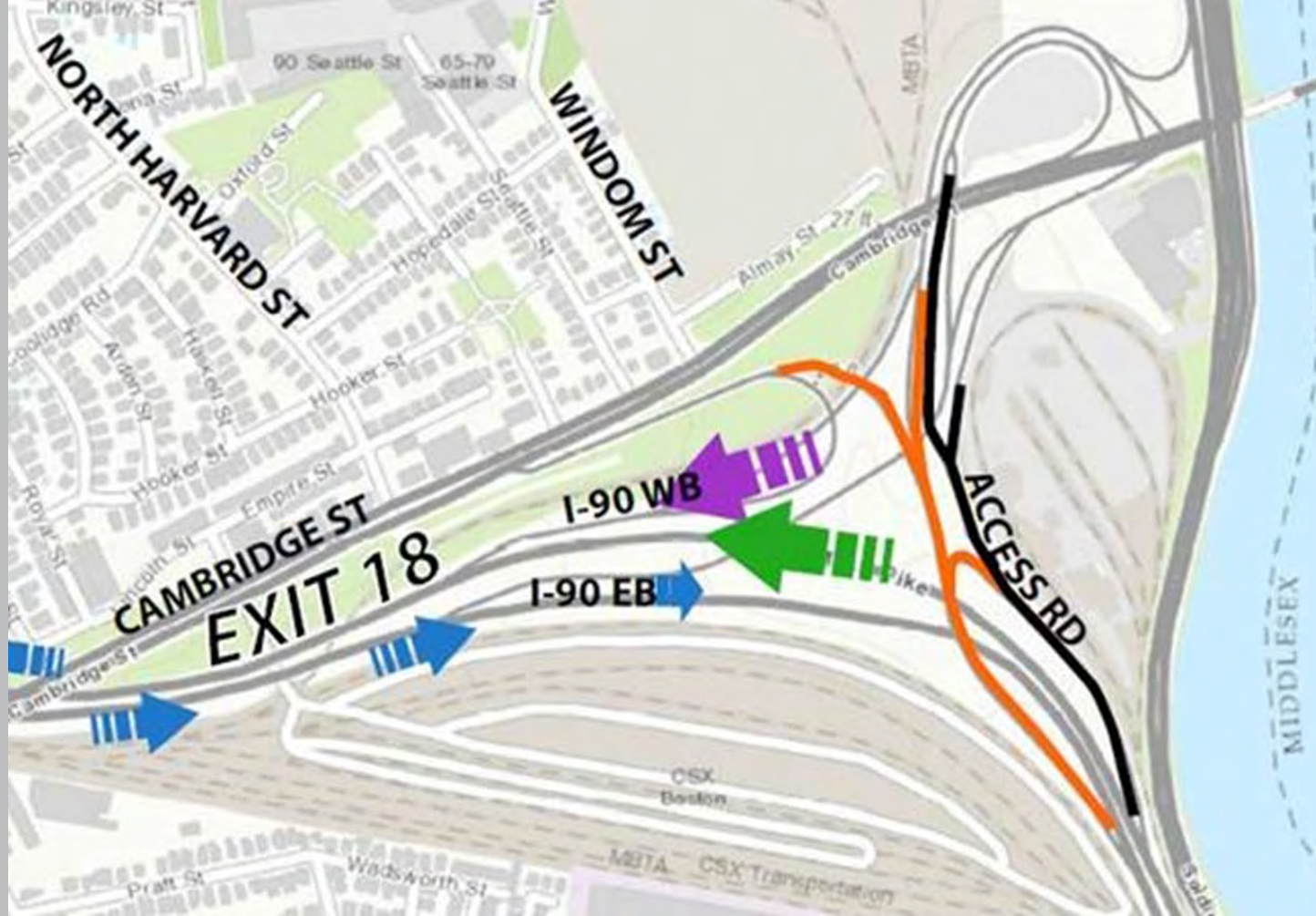
- I-90 will be reduced to 2 lanes in both directions **from 9:00 PM on July 27 to 5:00 AM on August 6** (*with additional lane closures during off-peak hours*)
- The **I-90 Eastbound on-ramp from Cambridge Street/Soldiers Field Road** will be closed during this entire period and the **I-90 Westbound Exit 20 off-ramp to Brighton/Cambridge** will also be closed intermittently during this timeframe
- The eastbound lane reductions will begin in advance of the Allston Interchange
- Westbound lane reductions will begin at the on-ramp from Mass Ave



I-90 Ramp Closures Detour

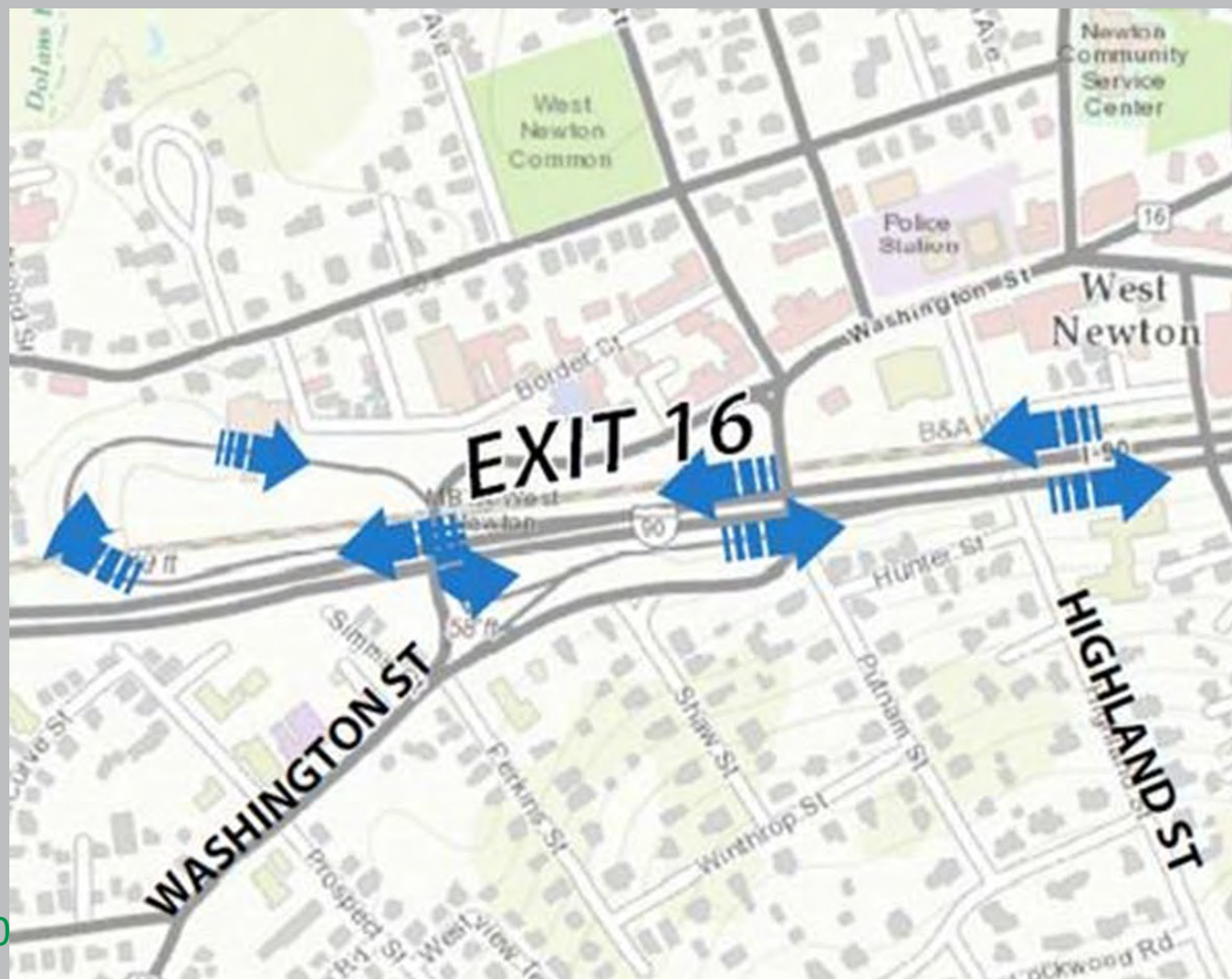
In effect from 9:00 PM on July 27 to 5:00 AM on August 6

I-90 Ramp Closures Detour



I-90 Eastbound On-Ramp from Cambridge Street Closure:

Use the I-90 westbound on-ramp to continue onto I-90 westbound. Take Exit 16 (Route 16 West Newton/Wellesley) and follow signs to access I-90 eastbound.



I-90 Westbound Exit 20 Closure:

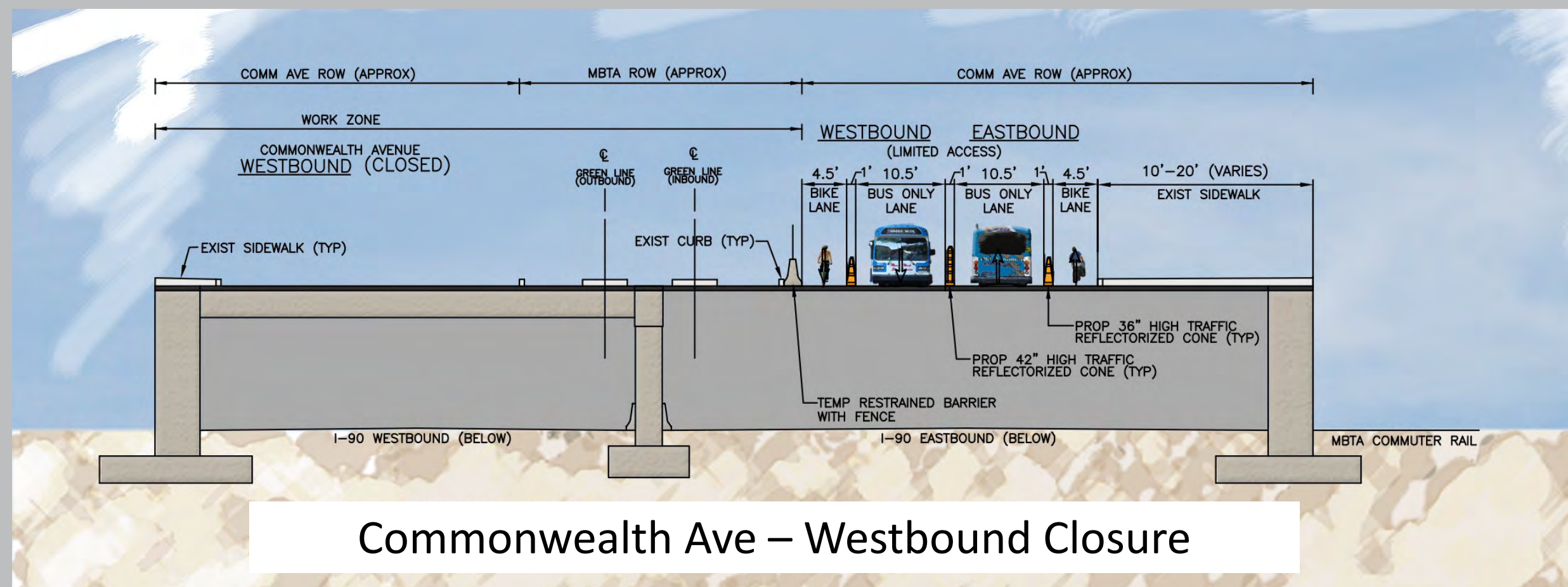
From I-90 westbound, continue to Exit 16 (Route 16 West Newton/Wellesley) and follow signs to access I-90 eastbound. Continue on I-90 eastbound to Exit 18 (Brighton/Cambridge) and use the eastbound off-ramp to exit onto Cambridge Street.

Commonwealth Avenue/ BU Bridge Impacts

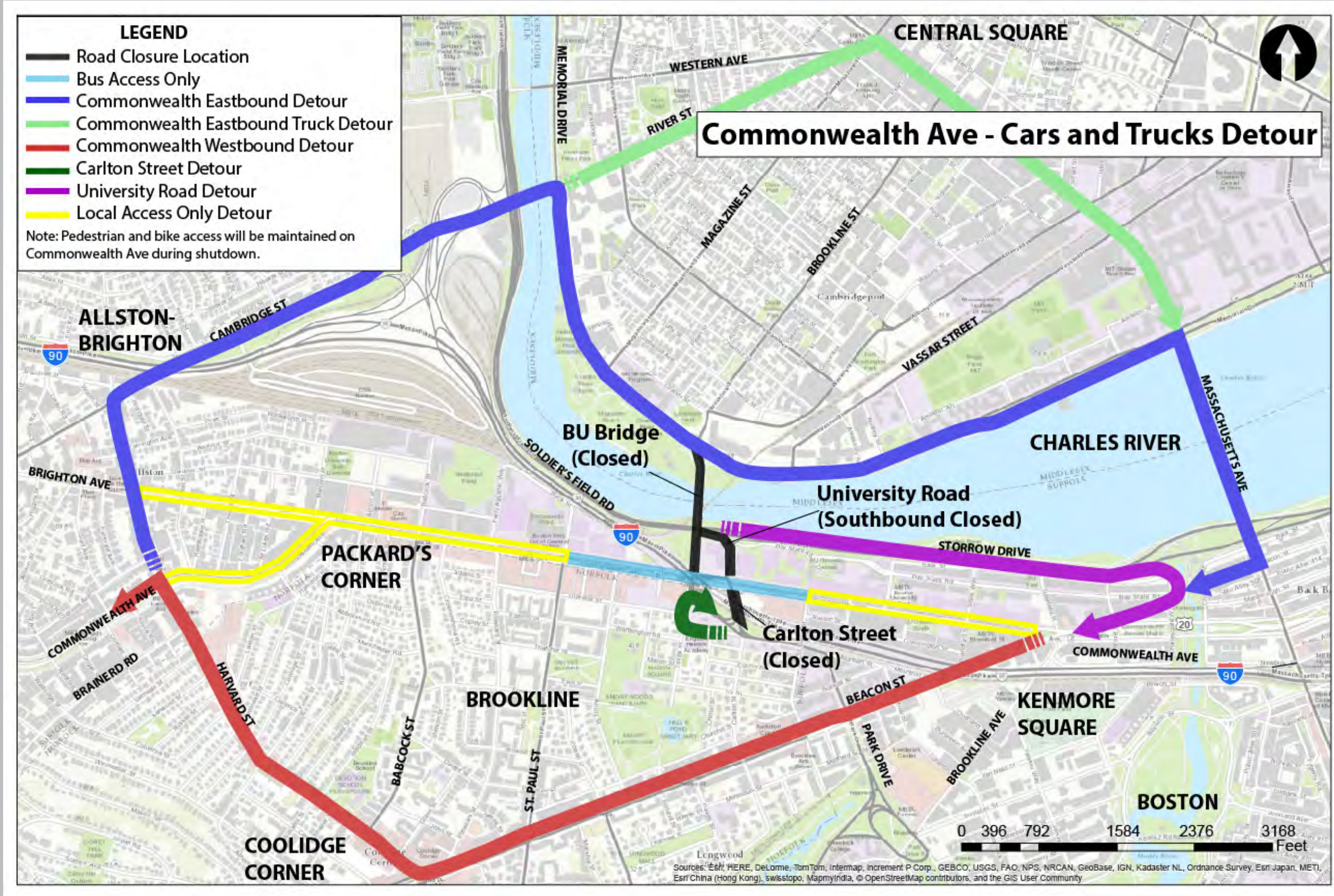
Commonwealth Ave

Restricted access from Packard's Corner to Kenmore Square

- Maintain access in two-directions for buses/emergency vehicles
- Maintain access for pedestrians, bicycles, abutters, local business



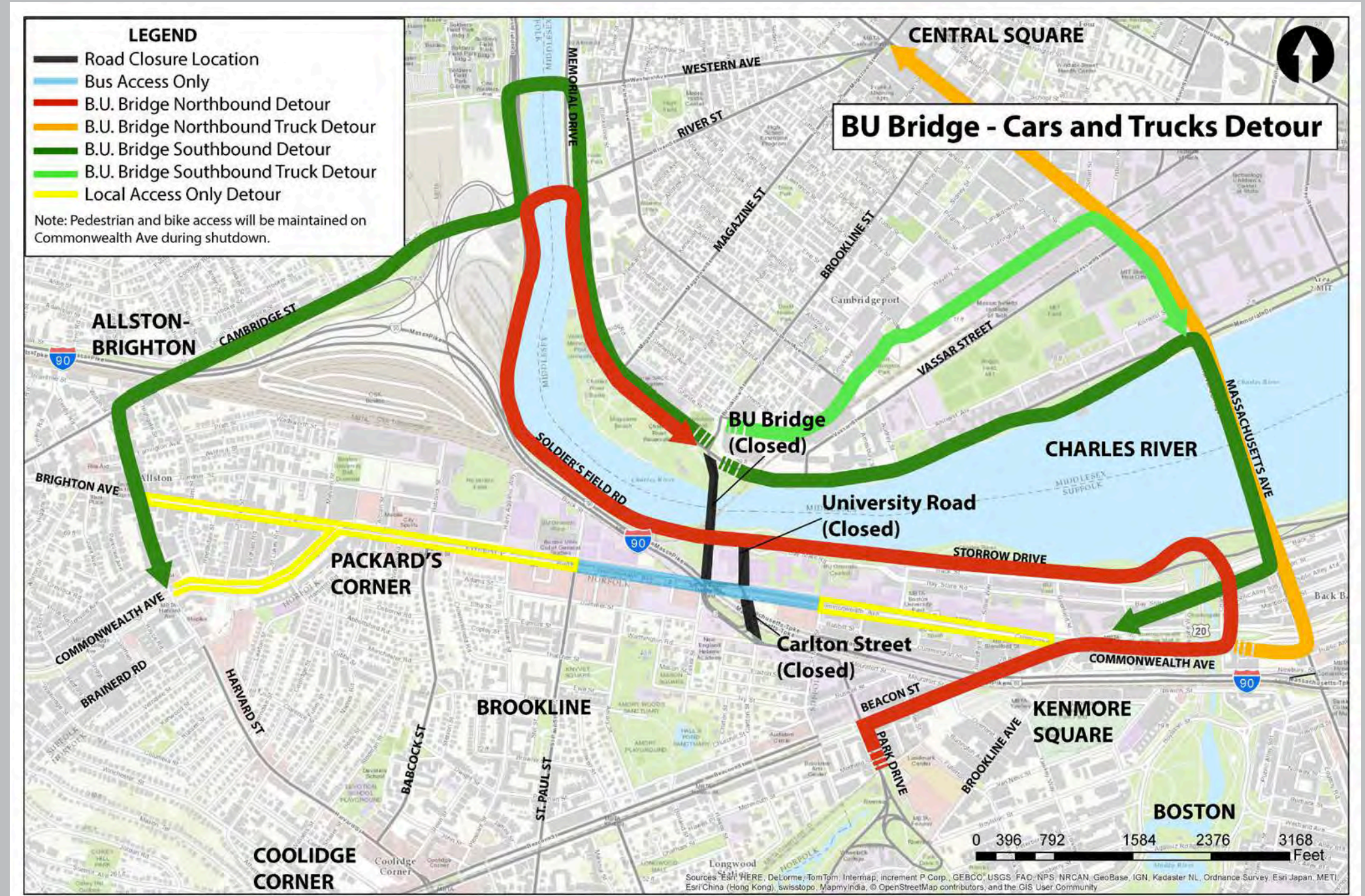
Vehicle Detours



BU Bridge

Beginning Thursday,
July 25 at 7:00 PM:

- Closed to vehicles
- Access is restricted to only pedestrians and bicycles



Encouraging Walking/Biking

- MassDOT/MBTA plans to utilize pedestrian and bicycle wayfinding signage to encourage active transportation, especially for short trips
- This will help optimize shuttle bus operations by shortening bus wait times and headways
- The Project Team is also partnering with Hubway to provide additional bike service along Comm Ave



MBTA Service Impacts



Green Line – B Line Service

Beginning Fri, July 27 at 5:00 AM for 15 days

- Light Rail Service terminates at Babcock Street Station and Blandford Street Station
- Replacement shuttle bus service
- Police details and Customer Service personnel at stations
- Route 57 bus will make most of the same stops

Regular light rail service commences at 5:00 AM on Saturday, August 11 -
BACK ON TRACK

Goal: Provide the best possible transportation options during
the construction period



MBTA Commuter Rail Framingham/Worcester Line

Service impacts for two weekends: **July 28-29** and **August 4-5**

- Normal weekday operations (maximum capacity) under flag operations
- Details regarding bus diversions are being finalized.

Amtrak Lakeshore Line:

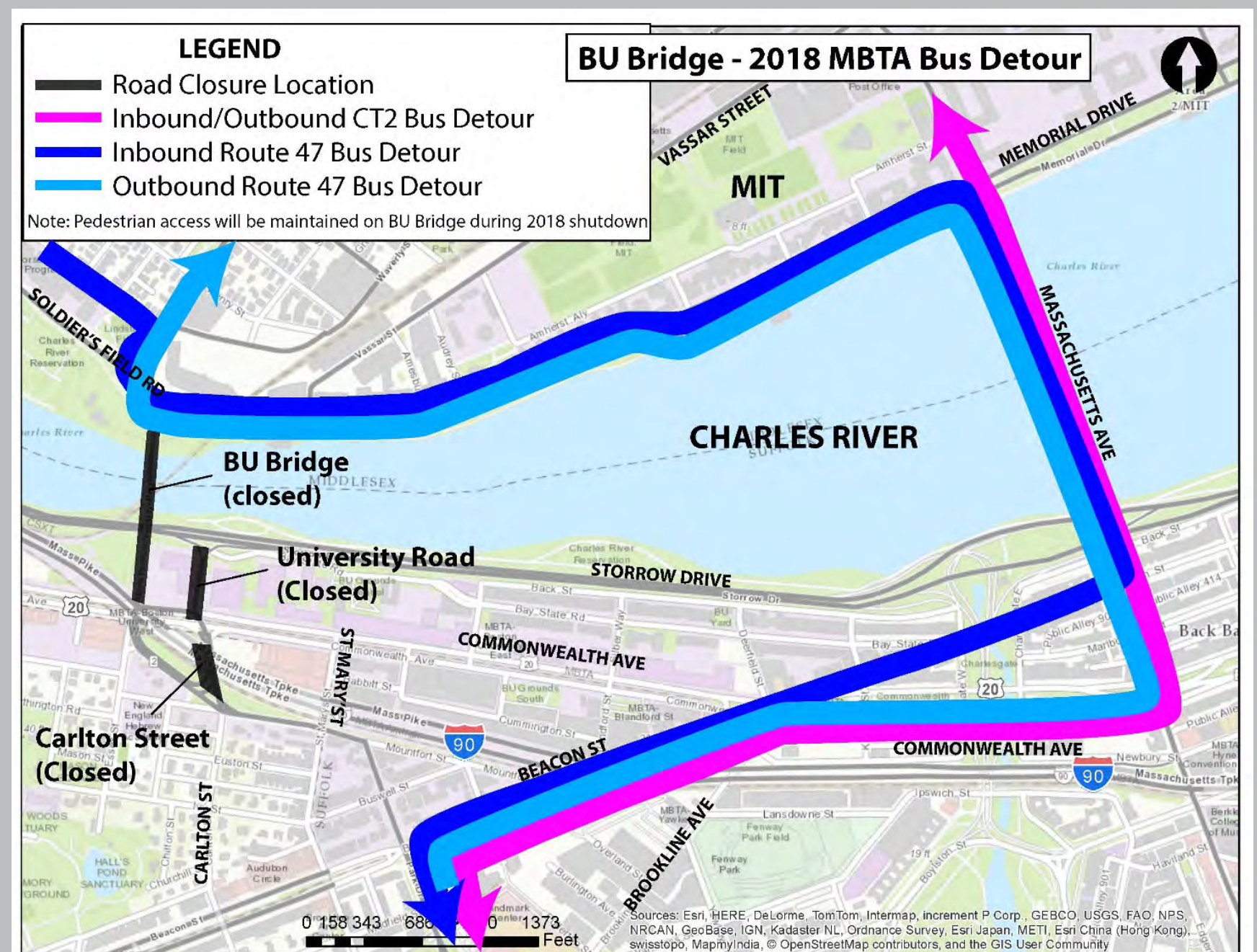
- No service disruptions on weekdays.
- Two weekends: July 28-29 and August 4-5. Shuttle bus service will run between South Station and Albany, NY.

Parking lots at stations near full capacity.

Plan ahead, car pool, seek alternate routes, etc.

Beginning Thursday, July 27 at 7:00 PM:

- MBTA Bus Routes CT2 and 47 will be detoured from normal route
- Route 57 bus will continue to run and make most of regular stops



Tips for the Public

- **Reduce**
 - Avoid unnecessary travel if possible.
 - Plan ahead- take your summer vacation during this time.
- **Reroute**
 - Recognize that Commonwealth Avenue will be closed to vehicles and I-90 will have reduced capacity.
 - Use alternate routes to reach destinations throughout the region.
- **Re-mode**
 - Shift to active transportation including walking and biking
 - Take public transportation such as the MBTA Commuter Rail Worcester/Framingham line.

Public Outreach and Communication

Outreach Next Steps

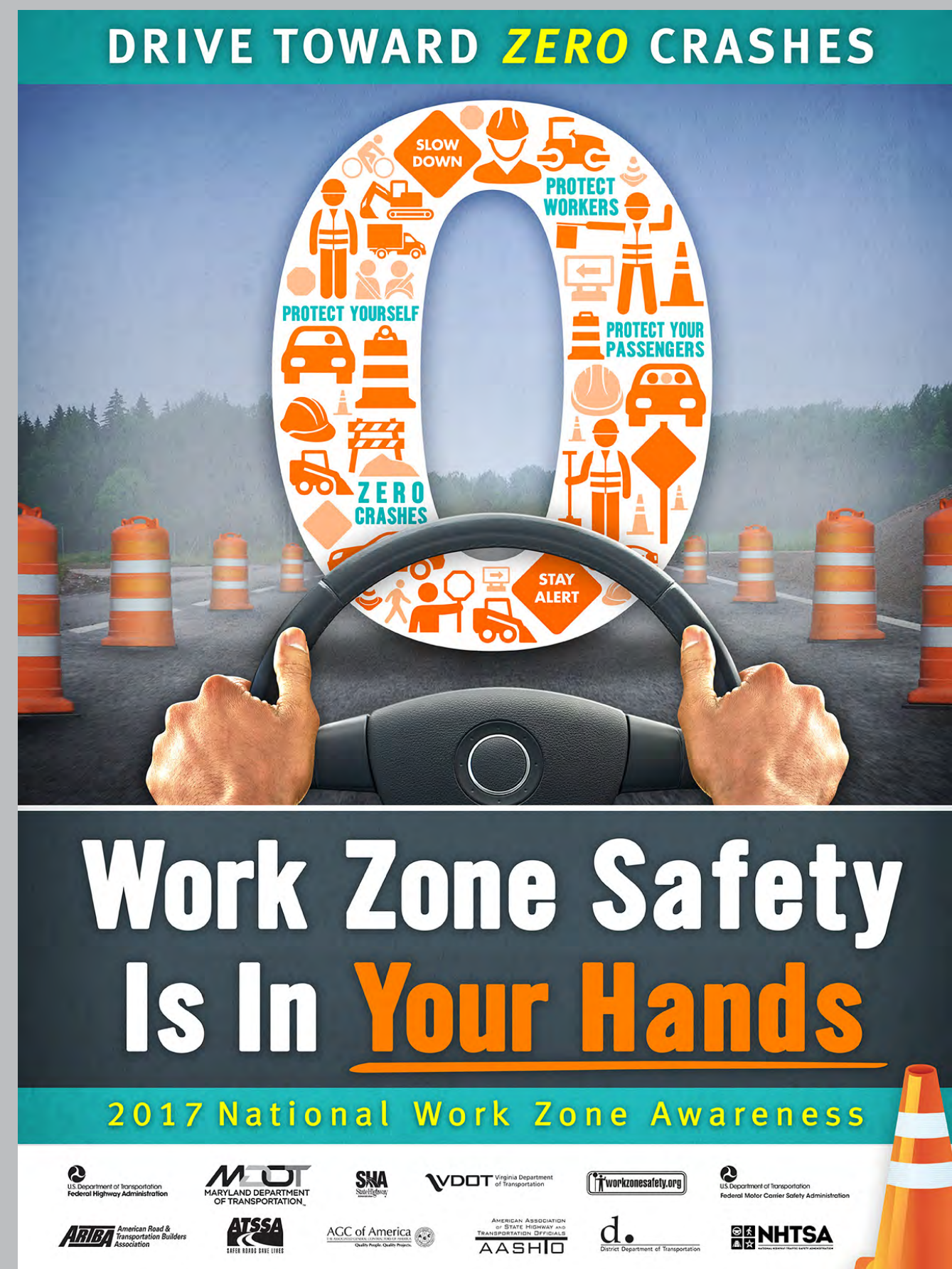
- Public meetings beginning in May and briefings for stakeholders
- Door-to-door business outreach and Business Working Group
- Media briefings and interviews
- Project website and email alerts (currently over 2200 subscribers)
- Email to E-Z Pass users and letters to Pay-by-Plate customers
- Printed materials (brochures, flyers) available in multiple languages
- Red Sox advertisements and outreach

www.mass.gov/massdot/CommAveBridge

- Sign up for email construction updates and traffic alerts
- View a detailed project schedule, including temporary traffic impacts
- Download maps of detour routes
- Learn more about traffic options in your area
- View project documents and presentations
- Find out about upcoming meetings

Work Zone Safety Message

- Be Patient
- Minimize Distractions
- Give your full attention to navigating through the work zone
- This is not the time to talk on a cellphone, text, or change the radio station





Contact Us

Sign up for email alerts!

www.mass.gov/massdot/CommAveBridge

Questions? Email us at

CommAveBridge@dot.state.ma.us



2018 Shutdown Construction Animation

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QiGoPf8-3-Q>